

## **NEWTON WELFARE OFFICE AND FOOD PANTRY**

The Welfare Department is available to provide information, as a referral resource and to assist those in financial crisis, on an emergency basis. Please feel free to contact the Welfare Department at 382-0398 with any questions or concerns you may have.

The Newton Food Pantry is available for any resident who is in need. The Pantry continues to be well stocked with donated non-perishable food items. To access the Food Pantry please call the Welfare Department to arrange an appointment.

As always, all inquiries are kept confidential. Due to continuing economic difficulties, the need for assistance has been an issue that the Welfare Department and the Food Pantry has been busy trying to address. There have been many requests for financial assistance with housing, utility costs and heating needs and the Food Pantry continues to be used by those unable to make ends meet and put adequate food on their tables.

I am again in awe of the compassion of those in our community. As always, the very generous people of our Town continue to step forward and help those less fortunate than themselves. On behalf of those who utilize the Food Pantry, I offer my deepest gratitude to those individuals both known and anonymous, groups and businesses who continue to contribute items and monetary donations to keep the pantry well stocked. Among those who have helped are the patrons and staff and Friends of the Gale Library (Food for Fines and the Angel Tree) and Newton Post Office (the Giving Tree), Newton Memorial School (food and gifts cards for residents), Sanborn Regional Middle School (canned food drive), Sanborn Regional High School Key Club (a total of 31 Thanksgiving dinners, shared between the Newton, Kingston and Freemont Food Pantries), CBI (food drive), The Newton Learning Center (Christmas gifts), Newton Baseball Softball Association (food donations, Holiday dinners), the First Baptist Church of Newton (Holiday dinner), Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts (Holiday dinners from both), Merrimac Savings Bank (ongoing food drive), Planet Fitness of Plaistow (food drive) The Newton Historical Society (grocery gift cards) the Town employees and staff at Town Hall (Holiday dinners and support throughout the year) and many, many residents. This year the Welfare Department and Food Pantry was able to provide Thanksgiving dinners to 15 families, Christmas dinners to 17 families and some Christmas presents for 13 children in our Town. All those involved had such a wonderful Holiday season. Thank you all so much.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tina O'Rourke  
Welfare Agent